



Children
and
Young
People



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Covid-19 - General

[New Bill to update coronavirus legislation](#)

The Scottish Government is to introduce a new bill to update coronavirus legislation for the current situation. The Coronavirus Extension and Expiry (Scotland) Bill will seek to remove some provisions that are no longer required and extend other measures. The Scottish Coronavirus Acts contain provisions which make temporary adjustments to respond to the pandemic and protect the health of people living in Scotland. While many redundant provisions have already been suspended, some are considered necessary to support the ongoing public health response to COVID-19. To ensure these provisions can, if necessary, continue beyond the original expiry date of 30 September 2021, a Bill will be introduced to Parliament which will remove a number of provisions which are no longer considered necessary in response to the pandemic and extend others to ensure that public services can continue to operate effectively.



[Report on Coronavirus legislation](#)

The Scottish Government has published the seventh report on the operation and status of the provisions of the Coronavirus legislation.

[Vaccine confirmed as safe for young people](#)

The Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has confirmed the extension of the current UK approval of the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to allow its use in 12-15 year olds.

[Call for ending child poverty to be at heart of pandemic recovery](#)

The British Association of Social Workers (BASW) has signed an open letter with other organisations calling on the UK Government to prioritise ending child poverty within the recovery from the Coronavirus pandemic. They are also calling for the UK Government to work with devolved government, organisations and those with lived experience, and commit to earlier intervention and prevention of child and family poverty.

[Public Health Scotland Covid-19 update](#)

The latest Covid-19 statistical release by Public Health Scotland shows there were 3,387 confirmed cases in the week ending 30 May.

Early Learning and Childcare

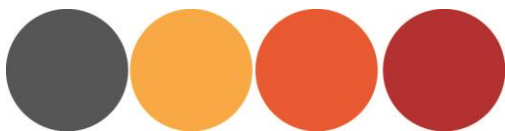
[Milk and snack scheme guidance](#)

Statutory guidance for operation of the Scottish Milk & Healthy Snack Scheme for local authorities and participating (registered) day care settings has been published by the Scottish Government. The stated purpose of the scheme is to support improvement in children's health in the earliest years, which is crucial in tackling health inequalities, and the Scottish scheme replaces the UK scheme from July 2021.

Education

[Review of harassment experienced in schools and colleges \(England\)](#)

Ofsted has published its review of sexual abuse in schools and colleges and recommends that school and college leaders act on the assumption that sexual harassment is affecting their pupils, and take a whole-school approach to addressing these issues, creating a culture where sexual harassment is not tolerated. The Department for Education has also [announced](#) strengthened safeguarding guidance will be introduced and school and college leaders encouraged to dedicate inset day time to train staff on how to deal with sexual abuse and harassment.



Justice

[Investigation into decisions to place children in secure accommodation](#)

The Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland has published an investigation in relation to compliance with the procedural protections that exist around decisions to place children in secure accommodation. The investigation examines whether children may have been unlawfully deprived of their liberty as a result of failure to comply with legal duties designed to respect, protect and fulfil their human rights.

Looked after and accommodated children

[Final reports of experiences of people in institutional care as children](#)

The Centre for excellence for Children's Care and Protection (Celcis) has highlighted the publishing of the final reports of the National Confidential Forum, 'Shining a Light on Care', analysing the testimonies of people who were in institutional care as children. The reports include recommendations for policy and practice for the Scottish Government.

Mental Health

[Board overseeing reforms to support for children publishes terms of reference](#)

The Scottish Government has published terms of reference for the Children & Young People's Mental Health & Wellbeing Joint Delivery Board, which will oversee reforms to ensure children, young people and their families receive the support they need. The Joint Delivery Board will also consider the short and long term impact of Covid-19 on children and young people and ensure this is reflected in the overall work of the Board.

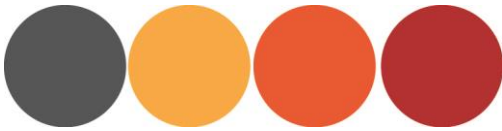
Other Health and Social Care

[Research institute published annual review](#)

The Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (Iriss) has published its annual review for 2020-21, summarising its work over the pandemic period and showcasing its contributions to social services in Scotland. The review highlights the capture of worker experiences of Covid-19, collaborative work to improve the use of data in adult support and protection, and a focus on supporting workers and organisations to make social care and social work better through innovation, change and improvement.

[Research investigating transport barriers for families and young people in poverty](#)

Transport Scotland has published a report on transport and child poverty, summarising the findings from a qualitative research project investigating the transport barriers facing families and young people living in poverty. Commissioned



by Transport Scotland and written by Fiona McHardy and Dr Laura Robertson of The Poverty Alliance, the report explores key transport challenges faced by low-income families, the role of transport in alleviating poverty alongside other public policy areas and the policies and initiatives which would assist low-income families with respect to transport as we move forward from the COVID-19 pandemic.

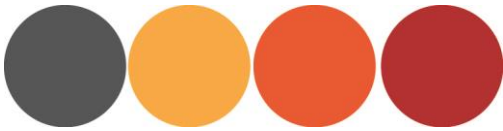
[SSSC Fitness to Practise process changes](#)

The SSSC has announced changes to their fitness to practise hearings process. From 1 July 2021, a hearing will only be held when a worker disagrees with the outcome of an SSSC investigation and asks for a hearing to resolve the disagreement. It is hoped this change will allow the SSSC to focus resources on improving the fitness to practise process and the support available to those involved.

Play

[Funding to build on summer provision of play and socialising](#)

Funding has been announced by the Scottish Government for local authorities and national partners to support children and young people's wellbeing through opportunities to socialise, play and reconnect over the summer. The support to be provided by local authorities is to specifically target people aged up to 25 years old from local income households who may otherwise struggle to access such experiences during the holidays.



Disclaimer

This weekly bulletin is produced as an update on the key issues concerning children and young people.

Each item in the bulletin has a hyperlinked headline that will take the reader to the original source.

We collate items from our parliamentary and Scottish Government monitoring covering health and social care news from throughout the UK, and current research and policy development. We use a variety of sources for the bulletin, including alerts from [Newsdirect](#), [Community Care](#), [Children & Young People Now](#) and [ISD Scotland](#).

We aim to be representative rather than comprehensive, so we try to cover only the main Scottish stories, along with some stories from the rest of the UK. The purpose of the bulletin is to alert readers to items of interest. It should be noted that these items are the works of others and are neither authorised nor endorsed by the Care Inspectorate, with the exception of publications which are identified as Care Inspectorate publications.

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